THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right. Yes, Mr. Panigrahi.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

RE. KILLINGS OF INNOCENT BUS PASSENGERS IN PUNJAB ON NOVEMBER 30, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : Madam, it is with a deep sense of sorrow and anguish that I wish to inform the House about the ghastly killing of innocent persons in district Hoshiarpur on 30th November 1986.

According to the information furnished by the State Government, a PEPSU Roadways Transport Corporation bus was plying from Faridkot to Pathankot on the 30th November 1986. When the bus reached near village Bhagol at about 5.15 P.M., the bus was forcibly diverted to the link road in the boundary of the above village. After travelling about 1 km., the bus was stopped by four terrorists who were also in the bus. The terrorists opened fire on passengers as a result of which 15 passengers died in the bus while 7 passengers were killed when they were trying to run away. Eight passengers were injured.

It appears that the terrorists had boarded the bus at the bus stop of Village Jajowal, District Hoshiarpur. After committing the crime, the culprits escaped on scooters. Police officers rushed to the scene of the incident. Combing operations by para-military forces and the police were started to apprehend the culprits. All police stations in the State have been alerted and intensive patrolling is being conducted.

I am sure that this house will join me in condemning such dastardly acts of violence which create disaffection and misunderstanding among different sections of society and in conveying our deep sympathies to the bereaved families. The Government is determined to stamp out terrorism. At the same time, I would appeal to all communities and all sections of public opinion to work together for foiling the evil designs of the terrorist and anti-national forces.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, सवाल यह है कि केन्द्र सरकार क्या करने जा रही है इस मामले में ? इस पर बयान बिल्कुल चुप है । सबेरे मैंने मामला उठाया था कि इस बस में कोई सिक्योरिटी गार्ड नहीं था। उस पर कोई रोशनी नहीं डाली गयी है। यह तो रद्दी की टोकरी में फेंक देने लायक बयान है ।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh) : It is nothing more than what we read in the nowspapers.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : जो अखबार में बात आती है वही आपकी कहनी है ।

(व्यवधान)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (MAHARASHTRA) : It is shameful statement by the Government. They must be ashamed of it.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : इससे ज्यादा खबर तो लोगों को समाचार पत्रों से मिल गयी है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि आज लोग आतंकवादियों द्वारा मारे गये हैं, क्या आज पंजाब में 4 और लोगों की हत्या हो गयी है, क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह भी पता है ?

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : यह खबर आई है अभी। यह खबर अभी टेलीप्रिंटर पर आई है ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (WEST BENGAL) : This silence on the part of the Government is extremely shocking. I want to know what do they want to do ?

Otherwise it is an admission of failure. It is an admission of the failure of law and order. (*Interruptions*) what do you want to do ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Wait. The Minister for Home Affairs is in the other House. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. One at a time.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (MAHARASHTRA) : This is not a matter which should ever be judged on party lines. The opposition people have shown great reservation and examplary demeanour in this matter. Our setinments are no less strong than theirs are in this. This is a pure statement of facts. This cannot be the end of the matter. It is no use rebuking the Minister. He has made a statement, (*Interruptions*) Please listen . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : One by one. If all of you start talking at the same time, it would not be possible for me to note what you have to say. I will give you a chance to peak. But the reply by the Minister would be tomorrow. If you are agreeable to it, you can seek your clarifications today also.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan) : It is understood that at 5-30 they are going to make a statement in the other House. (*Interruptions*) Are we not a part of Parliament ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You are a part of Parliament. But because the Minster is not here, and he is in the other House . . .

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Is he not representing him here ? He has made a statement. On what authority ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has all the authority. He has been asked by the Minister to make a statement. (*Interruptions*). The Minister will come either today or tomorrow to reply. If you want to seek clarifications now, I allow you to do so.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : They have shown some restraints. The sentiments of the entire nation are reflected by the temper of the House. We feel the same way. The statements are not enough. There has to be some action. (*Interruptions*) But, then, it is no use rebuking the Minister. He has made a statement of facts.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think they are not rebuking the Minister. They only want to know what the Government is going to do. Therefore, let them speak. (*Interruptions*) I know the seriousness of the matter.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Madam, is there not going to be some time-lag between the announcements in this House and the other House ? Can a person be with one leg there and one leg here ? (*Interruptions*) Can be . . . (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Order, Order, please. I will give all of you a chance, provided one person speaks at a time. Otherwise it is not possible. I will give a chance to everyone who wants to speak. Everybody will get his chance.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : In the early stages, it was said that he would make a statement and that the clarifications would come afterwards. Let us decide whether he is going to give the reply just now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Minister is in the Other House. He cannot be present in both the Houses at one and the same time. If it is possible for him to come today, he will do so. Otherwise, he will reply tomorrow. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Uttar Pradesh) : The same statement can be

[Shri Virendra Verma]

made at 5.30 P.M. in this House and in the Lok Sabha.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have asked Mr. Kulkarni to speak. He is on his legs.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh) : I want your ruling on a point of order. Just now you said that the Minister is in the other House. But there is a Minister of State in this House. If something important is to be announced in this House and if the Minister of State makes that statement, will it not be valid ? If it is not valid, then why should the Minister of State make the statement which is not valid ? (*Interruption*)

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra) : On a pont of order.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : I started by stating categorically that there is a Minister of State of Home Affairs in the House and he has made a statement. But for giving a reply, he is not the person competent.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra) : Who says he is not competent ? You cannot say like that. You cannot say that he is not competent. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is on a point of order. I can give a ruling. Why are you agitated ? I can always give a ruling.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Therefore, I want a ruling from you whether the Minister of State who is in the House will be replying to the clarifications that are sought and to the questions that are raised in the House. If he is not going to reply, does it mean that he is not competent to give answers to the clarifications ? I am not saying that he is not competent.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka) : May I make a submission ?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Madam, I was on a point of order earlier.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I will speak just one sentenc. Actually this House has got the right to ask for the clarification from the Minister. There is no doubt about that. Since this is a very important matter, we were anxious to get the Cabinet Minister, Shri Buta Singh, to be present in in this House. I am making an honest attempt.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is a futile argument. Since the hon. Home Minister is in the other House, therefore the entire cabinet is busy and the Government of India must come to a standstill. Why can't the Prime Minister come and reply ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Kindly allow me to complete my sentence. As the matter is very very important and we wanted to know what was happening the Minister of State Mr. Panigrahi came to our House and made the statement. Members are free to ask for clarifications. It would be in the interest of the whole House that the Cabinet Minister, Mr. Buta Singh, is available here. He is in the other House and we expect him here. If it is not possible for him to come right now, let us have a reply from him. We can hear the Home Minister tomorrow morning. That is all.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Madam, I am on a point of order.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Madam, you called me.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Madam Deputy Chairman

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It has to be a point of order.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Madam, I am raising a point of order. Madam, this is far too serious a matter where we should really get into the wrangles of point of order. I don't think anybody in this House is really satisfied with the statement made today. Let us make no mstake about it. But I have been feeling so much agitated about the whole thing that I wanted to know when this question will come up here and in the other House. I have been watching the Board which showed that right from 4 o'clock the Lok Sabha, the other House is discussing this issue. And the statement is to be made at 5.30 p.m. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Exactly the same statement has been made here. An assurance has been gven in that House that at 5.30 P.M...

SHRI MURLIDHAR BHANDARE : You are not permitting me to complete. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You come straightaway to your point of order.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Madam, at 4 o'clock, the discussion must have started on some statement made by the Home Minister. And thereafter that House is expecting another statement at 5.30 p.m. That is what all these Members have said just now. So, if there are two statements, one at 4 o'clock and the other at 5.30 p.m., will we also have the same thing, one on the factual aspect of it which has been made by the hon. Minister of State, and the other by Mr. Buta Singh as soon as he is free from that House? We will sit here even upto 9 o'clock.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in this.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : The point of order is whether there are two statements. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Madam, I want to quote Rule 251, Rule 251—Statement by a Minister—says that a statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Chairman but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made. (*Interruptions*) This is the rule .... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, what is true. But because we are discussing very serious issue, in the morning also, putting all conventions aside, the Chairman himself has moved a sort of Resolution and everybody agreed with him. So, we need not quote this convention at this juncture. And I would like the Members to put forth their views if they want, and if they want to seek any clarification they can do so. If the Minister of Home is available he would come. Otherwise, he will reply tomorrow morning. If you want to seek any clarification I am ready to allow.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Madam, I want to say this...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Madam, you called me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gurupadaswamy, after him I will call you.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Madam Deputy Chairman, earlier as a reaction I said and Mr. Salve took objection. My only difficulty is ....

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Forget about the objection. You say whatever you want to say.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What I wanted to say is this. We are, all along, suggesting from the Opposition side that an innocuous, innocent and childish statement of this nature does not meet the situation. Either the Government should come saying that the Barnala Government is dismissed and the military rule or the President's Rule is instituted or some other suggestion . . . (*Interruptions*) That is my view. You may not like it. That is my view. I do say that Mr. Barnala is incompetent to rule in Punjab. Let us not . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : Who is competent ? Central Government ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): I do not at all support the view expressed by Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I am so sorry. The way Punjab is being administered I think Barnala should be dismissed and Central rule should be instituted in Punjab or some such suggestion as was given by Mr. Vajpayee in the morning should be considered and something announced on that.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : The country should not witness another murder of democracy as put forward by Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Mr. Kulkarni has not given a correct suggestion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : I agree that this is a very serious matter. The House is already seriously concerned about it. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please Mr. Kulkarni, you have already spoken.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Let the Home Minister resign, that should be the demand.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: My worry is that we are taking a very simplistic view of this question. Madam, I am not raising my clarifications now. It will be tomorrow. Because I myself have requested him to make a statement now so that the clarifications may be raised tomorrow. I want to make this observation only. This is not a very simple issue because the tragedy is so ghastly. After hearing the statement and seeing the behaviour of the Ministry, particularly the behaviour of the Home Ministry it is clear that they are adopting a very simplistic approach to the problem. In the statement there should have been an expression of concern. Apart from that, there should have been action, suggestion of action on the part of the Government to meet such grave situations. That is not there. That is missing. Therefore, I expect the Minister tomorrow at least to come out with a comprehensive statement . . .

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Correct, that is what I said.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : . . . giving his approach and his thinking on such a vital matter and telling us what he proposes to do to meet the situation in Punjab. Let it not merely be confined to the shooting of a few passengers in a bus, which is very very ghastly no doubt. But such situations are repeated. Therefore, what we want to know is what is the approach of the Government in this matter, what is the thinking of the Government to meet the situation.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : महोदया, मेरा एक सुझाव है, सदन छह बजे स्थगित होगा, क्या हम छह बजे के बाद बैठने का फैसला नहीं कर सकते ? क्या हम यह निर्णय नहीं कर सकते कि हम गृहमंत्री को सुनने के बाद आज घर जाएंगे ? यह मामला कल के लिए टाला नहीं जा सकता । अगर सरकार

कोई कार्यवाही करना चाहती है और उसका एलान लोक सभा में कर रही है तो उसका एलान इस सदन में भी होना चाहिए। हमें उस पर अपनी बात कहने का मौका मिलना चाहिए । मेरा निवेदन है कि आप सदन की राय ले लीजिए और हम तब तक बैठें, जब तक कि गृहमंत्री महोदय इस सदन में जवाब देने के लिए नहीं आ जाते ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : बिल्कुल ठीक कहा है आपने ।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : I fully support what Mr. Vajpayee said just now.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Madam, I share the anxiety expressed by Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, Mr. Upendra and all the other friends. It is because you wanted that we should make a statement to the House that we came forward with it and it was agreed that replies to all the clarifications will come from the Home Minister, and as Mr. Vajpayee suggested, we take it seriously because the Government is very much exercised about this whole matter and the entire House and in fact everybody is concerned about it. Because you wanted the Government to make a statement, therefore we have made a statement. Whatever problems you are discussing, Mr. Kulkarni and other friends are discussing, there is no doubt that this is the most serious concern of the whole country, this House and the Government. Therefore, there is nothing as if we are not sincerely thinking over this matter but because the Home Minister will come and reply to the queries and clarifications to be asked for, I made the statement. I hope the hon. Members will give that cooperation which is needed.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : What is your reaction to Mr. Vajpayee's suggestion that we sit late ? Let the Home Minister come here.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I shall convey it to the Home Minister.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : We had already decided to sit up to 7, in the Business Advisory Committee itself. Today, the matter is very serious. So, we can sit longer. When the Home Minister finishes his job in the Lok Sabha, he can come here and we can sit late, as Mr. Vajpayee suggested. Home Minister should come here and give clarifications which Members want to seek.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You can take the sense of the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I make my submission after you have taken the sense of the House on this eminently right proposition. Madam, more than 24 hours have elapsed since this incident, which all sections of this House, that House, and outside the Parliament, are finding not just disturbing, not just ghastly but as an incident which has shaken up the complacency of all of us on what is taking place in the whole country. Madam, 24 hours have elapsed. In 24 hours, all that this Government could come forward with is a bare sketch, an outline of the incidents that took place, not even what is reported in the newspapers. And you expect us to wait another 12 or 18 hours before we could come to know what the Government intends to do. I think, Madam, we are going to make a mockery both of the incident and of all those who have lost their lives, by this empty expression of concern on what is taking place in Punjab. If we do not, we then demand of this Government, whether it is the Home Minister or the Prime Minister, whether it is 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock, that this House shall not rise until we have had a categorical statement of action from this Government.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I shall convey it to the Home Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : It is extremely unfortunate that the Minister representing the Council of Ministers, makes a statement on the floor of the House but we are not being allowed to discuss nor to put questions . . . (*Interruptions*). The point is that this House is being discriminated against; Rajya Sabha is being discriminated against... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : That is not what Mr. Vajpayee said. He made a rational request and I request the Home Minister to find out the convenience of Mr. Buta Singh immediately and come to the House after 6.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Madam Chairperson, I was saying . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : My ruling is, there is no point of order. The Home Minister is right now sitting and replying probably to the queries and clarifications asked for by the hon. Members there in the Lok Sabha. We cannot just ask him to leave and come here. Therefore, I have asked him to find out whether he can come after he finishes his reply there.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He has to come.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It will not take much time. They will go and find out when he will be free. Till that time we can continue with our discussion and we need not go into all other matters. We go back to Coal Mines Nationalisation Laws (Amendment) Bill.

COAL MINES NATIONALISATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

श्री प्रभाकर राव कलवला (आन्ध्र प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया,, माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह अमेंडमेंट बिल जो पेश किया है इसके लिये कहना चाहता हूं कि कोल नेशनलाइजेशन 13 साल पहले हुआ था और इस बिल में हम फरदर अमेंडमेंट करने जा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह अमेंडमेंट किस वास्ते लाया जा रहा है। 13 साल पहले जब नेशनलाइजेशन हुआ था उस वक्त जो माइन ओनर्स थे उनको कंपेंसेशन दिया गया है। फिर इस मामले को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में क्यों उठाया जा रहा है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि इसमें कुछ लैकूना है। इसको डिटेक्ट करने में 13 साल क्यों लगे, यही मैं जानना चाहता हूं। Are the authorities concerned so irresponsible in regard to this? माइन्स में जो कोल की क्वांटिटी थी उसका पूरा कंपेंसेशन दिया गया है, फिर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में इस मामले को क्यों लाया गया है। उस वक्त कोलमाइन अथारिटीज सुप्रीम कोर्ट को कंविस क्यों नहीं कर सकीं। The Government have failed to convince the Supreme Court in regard to the payment and all that. गवर्नमेंट का इस तरह दुबारा डबल पेमेंट करने के लिये तैयार होना ठीक नहीं है। फिर भी मंत्री जी यह अमेंडमेंट बिल लाये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि नेशनलाइजेशन होने के बाद भी यह उद्योग 1200 करोड़ के लास में क्यों चल रहा है? दूसरी चीज यह है कि 1972-73 में जब नेशनलाइजेशन किया गया था तो 77 मिलियन टन प्रोडक्शन था और कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन पर टन 47 रुपया था और वेज कास्ट 16 रुपये थी और पूरी कोल माइन्स 50 करोड़ में चल रही थीं। उनमें 5 लाख 50 हजार मजदूर थे। लेकिन अब 6000 करोड़ का पब्लिक फंड उनमें लगाया गया है और वह 1200 करोड़ के लास में चल रही हैं और 13 साल के बाद 1984-85 में 147 मिलियन टन उसका प्रोडक्शन है और 98 परसेंट वेजेज बढ़ा दिये गये हैं और जो टार्गेट रखा गया था उसे हम पूरा नहीं कर पाये हैं। हमारा सारा इनर्जी प्रोग्राम इसी पर डिपेंड करता है। इसलिये मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इसके टार्गेट्स को पूरा करने की रेक्वेस्ट करता हूं।